U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-091-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC67494

PROJECT NAME: Pipeline recoating & replacement segments

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 2 N., R. 99 W.,
Sec. 4, N½NW¼;
Sec. 5, NE¼, SE¼NW¼.

T. 2 N., R. 100 W.,
Sec. 3, S½SW¼;
Sec. 7, SE¼NE¼;
Sec. 9, NE¼NE¼;
Sec. 10, NE¼NW¼.

T. 1 N., R. 101 W.,
Sec. 4, N½N½, S½NW¼, S½NW¼, NW¼NW¼;
Sec. 5, SE¼SW¼, E½SE¼, SW¼SE¼;
Sec. 8, NW¼NE¼.

T. 2 N., R. 101 W.,
Sec. 14, SW¼SW¼.

T. 2 N., R. 103 W.,
Sec. 8, W½SW¼;
Sec. 12, NE¼NE¼;
Sec. 16, SW¼NW¼, NE¼SW¼.

T. 2 N., R. 104 W.,
Sec. 1, SE¼SW¼, SW¼SE¼.

T. 1 S., R. 102 W.,
Sec. 1, lot 13, 20, 21, 28.

T. 2 S., R. 101 W.,
Sec. 4, SW¼SE¼;
Sec. 9, SW¼SE¼;
Sec. 16, SE¼SE¼;
Sec. 21, E½E½;
Sec. 28, NE¼NE¼;
Sec. 32, SE¼SE¼.

T. 3 S., R. 101 W.,
Sec. 5, SW¼NE¼;
Sec. 18, SW¼NE¼, NW¼SE¼, SW¼SW¼.

APPLICANT: Northwest Pipeline Corporation

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional):

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction: Northwest Pipeline Corporation has applied for a temporary use permit to recoat and replace segments of weaken pipe on rights-of-way COC011409 (Piceance Creek Lateral) and COC011243 (Ignacio Sumas).

Proposed Action: The proposed action is for the recoating and replacement of approximately 50+ weakened spots on the above-mentioned rights-of-way. Both of these pipelines were constructed in the 1950's and are aging badly enough to be a health and safety issue to the general public and the environment. These two pipelines are main transportation lines that move product to the west. These repairs need to be made in order for these lines to handle the increased production that is happening in this area. Normally this type of action is covered under a regular maintenance procedure, but since there are so many anomalies on these two lines, a temporary use permit is required to authorize this activity. The work is scheduled to start as soon as an authorization is issued and will be completed before snow fall.

No Action Alternative: The no action alternative would deny this proposal and the situation would remain a hazard to the health and safety of the environment and general public.

NEED FOR THE ACTION: Northwest Pipeline has applied for the repair of these two pipeline rights-of-way, COC011409 and COC011243.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: None.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: All of the proposed repair and recoating segments have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Fetterman 2004, Compliance Dated 5/28/2004) with one prehistoric cultural resource identified on the Piceance Basin Lateral portion of the proposed project. It appears that there is a potential for the site located on the Piceance Basin lateral to be of importance as defined under the regulations at 36 CFR 60.4.

There were no new or previously recorded sites noted on any of the locations to be repaired on the Ignacio-Sumas mainline portion of the project.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action has the potential to adversely impact a known cultural site further since it was originally impacted during initial construction of the Piceance Basin Lateral.

It does not appear that work on the Ignacio-Sumas mainline portion of the project will impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: Williams Piceance Basin Lateral: all segments **except cis-02-32 through cis-02-35:**

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

Piceance Basin Lateral stations cis-02-32 through cis-02-35:

1. all excavations on this portion of the pipeline must be monitored by an approved archaeologist. 2. The features identified on the site shall be marked off with hazard fencing and all personnel and construction equipment must avoid the fenced areas at all times during construction and maintenance. 3. All work that involves stockpiling of soils, parking of vehicles etc. shall be kept outside of the site boundaries.

Williams Ignacio-Sumas mainline:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
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INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Most of the sections needing repair are in bottom soils which have relatively deep soils. Also, for the most part these areas are strongly composed of invasive or weedy species, in particular cheatgrass. These areas are corridors for livestock movement and receive intense grazing pressure which makes reclamation difficult.

Several noxious weeds are of concern including; cheatgrass, knapweed species, bull, musk and Canada thistles, hoary cress and black henbane. Cheatgrass is found throughout the area and is

highly adapted to invading disturbed sites. The other species are commonly transported on construction equipment and support vehicles.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With proper reclamation there should be adequate cover to suppress cheatgrass and prevent invasion by other noxious weeds. With proper control of noxious weeds there should not be any impacts *on the adjacent plant* communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: From the White River ROD/RMP, Appendix B. 180. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

181. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

182. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

183. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

185. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

186. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Area Manager.

187. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

188. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in Table B1 and B2. Use Standard Seed Mix 1 from Table B1 identified below.

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest) Alternates: Fourwing saltbush, Nutall saltbush, Winterfat, Annual Sunflower, Western wheatgrass	3 2 3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep

179. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: The pipeline traverses several habitat types which support a large array of migratory birds during the breeding season (May, June and July). Eight sections which run along Raven Ridge, ten sections located between Hammond Draw and Boise Creek and the first four sections located east of Douglas Creek are in predominantly sagebrush habitats with perennial grass cover. This habitat typically supports species such as meadowlark and vesper sparrow and when more contiguous may support Brewer's sparrows and green-tailed towhee. At several sites young Pinyon-juniper is scattered throughout or partially borders a portion of the pipeline. Section CIS-03-54 borders a Pinyon-juniper stand which historically supported a red-tailed hawk nest. A pair of red-tailed hawks was observed near the area. There was no behavioral display to indicate that the pair was nesting. A search was conducted within a 300 m radius of the historical nest however; there was no evidence of an active nest.

Two sections located near Monument Gulch, two sections located above Kenney Reservoir and six sections immediately west of Gillam Draw are situated in predominantly Pinyon-juniper stands. Section CIS-03-46 is bordered by a mature stand of Pinyon-juniper that holds good raptor nesting potential. A variety of birds were found at this site including but not limited to dusky flycatcher, rock wren, mountain bluebird, spotted towhee and Pinyon jay. Sections CIS-02-15 and 02-16 are located between two small stands of Pinyon-juniper near rim rock uplands which hold possible raptor nesting potential.

Sections CIS-02-17 through CIS-02-25 and all sections along Douglas Creek/Highway 139 are located in predominantly greasewood habitat with a perennial grass cover interspersed with sagebrush. The woodland areas immediately adjacent to the Highway 139 corridor provide poor nesting substrate for raptors, which decreases the likelihood of nesting. Rim rock upland/outcrops along the corridor exhibit high raptor nesting potential and are near enough to be influenced by disturbance. However, no evidence of use was observed. Those portions of Douglas and West Douglas support a strong contingent of riparian-affiliated (willow and tamarisk) neo-tropical migratory birds, including: yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak, and lazuli bunting.

Two inactive nests were located in isolated cottonwood trees approximately 0.5 mi south and 0.5 mi east of sites 03-21, 26 & 52. The nests appeared in good condition and may hold nesting potential in future years.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Repair work access to the sites will be along the existing right-of-way or a highly traveled road (Highway 139). Activities associated with the sites would have no reasonable probability of adversely affecting local reproductive efforts or recruitment of migratory birds and/or raptors. Pipeline replacement may coincide with the later stages of nesting activity (late June – early July). However, the short time

duration and small size of most segments scheduled for replacement would affect a minimal amount of habitat (1-2 ac of habitat spread over approximately 35 miles). In addition, work is confined largely to an existing, cleared right-of-way which provides poor nesting substrate for migratory birds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: A small active population of white-tailed prairie dogs is located near Gillam Draw, approximately 250 - 400 m from sections CIS-023, 24, and 25, with remnant burrows scattered throughout the greasewood which, in some areas, is intersected by the pipeline.

The White River corridor is the hub for seasonal bald eagle use of the lower White River Valley. Particularly during the later fall and winter months, up to several dozen bald eagles make regular foraging use of open upland communities south of the river, but these forays in search of, primarily, big game and livestock carrion and small game (e.g., rabbit and hare) are dispersed and opportunistic.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The active white-tailed prairie dog town is located far enough away as not to be negatively impacted by maintenance at the proposed pipeline sites. Work at these three sites may involve a small number of abandoned burrows, but replacement activity would have no influence on the future utility of the site for subsequent use by prairie dogs.

There would be no impacts on reproductive activities of bald eagles as there are no known active nests in the vicinity of the proposed sites. The short duration of work proposed at the sites would not negatively affect foraging opportunities for bald eagles.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: The proposed action would have no influence on the populations or habitats of Threatened and Endangered species in the area, and thereby would have no bearing on the public land health standard.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: No threatened or endangered plants are present in, or in the vicinity of, the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. Thus there would be no effect on achieving the land health standard.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is within the Lower White River, Dripping Rock Draw, and Douglas Creek watersheds. The State has identified them in segments 13a, 22 and 23 respectively, in the Numeric Standards and Classification. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. This proposed action is in a Category 1, Priority 2, watershed (The Lower White) identified in the Unified Watershed Assessment report. The state has reasons to believe this

watershed has water quality problems (sediment and salinity loads) that may impair the watershed.

Segment 23 has been classified as Aquatic Life Warm 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule applies to this segment meaning no further water quality degradation is allowable that would interfere with or become harmful to the designated uses.

Segments 13a and 22 have been classified as "Use Protected" reach. Their designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0 and Fecal Coliform = 2000/100ml and 630/100 ml E. coli. In addition standards for inorganic and metals have also been listed and can be found in the table of stream classifications and water quality standards.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: One problem that could arise from the proposed action would be an increase in sediment transport from topsoil piles. Annual runoff from these watersheds is dynamic and dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and increased sedimentation to the White River until successful best management practices (BMPs) have been implemented and proven successful. The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative could be greater if the aged pipeline were not maintained.

Mitigation: Through the use of BMPs, keep sediment from leaving the proposed site.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The water quality of the drainages discussed above is well within the criteria set by the state, thus meeting the land health standard. The proposed action will not change this status.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: Sites AS-03-01 through AS-03-06 and CIS-02-01,02,05 – 14, which run along the Douglas Creek and west Douglas Creek corridor are the only sites in close proximity to riparian/wetland areas. The right-of-way along site AS-03-01 is the only site that has potential to involve the floodplain due to existing headcuts that have developed along a parallel right-of-way.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With the exception of site AS-03-01, there would be no negative impacts on wetlands or riparian zones. All sites are well removed from any riparian channels. While the right-of-way along site AS-03-01 does not negatively impact the channel itself, as proposed, right-of-way clearing may aggravate ongoing terrace erosion and increase the rate of soil deposited in an old oxbow.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: To decrease any negative impacts at site AS-03-01, the right-of-way width east of the pipeline should be reduced so it will not extend east of the centerline of the power line. This would avoid involving headcuts that have developed along a parallel pipeline right-of-way.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The Douglas Creek complex is generally meeting the standard for riparian communities and the system continues to improve (i.e., channel aggradation and wetland/riparian obligate expression). As mitigated, this project would have no negative impacts on riparian vegetation or channel function. Subsequently the project would have no effect on continued achievement of the public land health standard for riparian systems.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, Wilderness Study Areas, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The soils have been mapped in an order III soil survey by NRCS and are available from that office for review. Refer to the table below for the type of soils affected by the proposed action.

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
8	Billings-Torrifluvents complex gullied	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes/None	2-8	Rapid	High	>60
19	Chipeta-Walknolls	5-15%	Clayey	8-16	Rapid	High	10-20

Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Range site	Salinity	RunOff	Erosion Potential	Bedrock
	Complex		Saltdesert/Saltdesert breaks				
74	Rentsac-Moyerson-Rock Outcrop complex	5-65%	PJ Woodlands/Clayey Slopes	<2	Medium	Moderate to very high	10-20
78	Rock Outcrop	50-100%	None		Very high	Slight	0
89	Tisworth fine sandy loam	0-5%	Alkaline Slopes	>4	Rapid	Moderate	>60
91	Torriorthents-Rock Outcrop complex	15-90%	Stoney Foothills		Rapid	Very high	10-20
94	Turley fine sandy loam	3-8%	Alkaline Slopes	2-4	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60

Revegetation limitations for these soil types include an arid climate, saline and droughty soil condition. These location have *not* been mapped as areas that have fragile soils on slopes greater than 35 %. No special designations have been assigned to this location.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be an increase in erosion and sedimentation from overland flows, due to excavation and stockpiling of each pipeline segment being repaired. These impacts would be short term during the construction phase and for a period after construction providing successful reclamation occurs.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative could be greater if the aged pipeline were not maintained.

Mitigation: When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: Soils at the proposed locations currently meet the criteria established in the Public Land Health Standard. The proposed action would not change this status.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The predominate vegetation is greasewood/sage bottoms. These sites are generally in poor conditions due to the presence of cheatgrass and annual forbs.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Construction would disturb these sites. With prompt reclamation these sites and establishment of the proposed seed mix these areas would have a perennial vegetation type with improved ability to hold soil.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: If pipeline maintenance is not done as scheduled, it could result in emergency repairs causing more damage to vegetation than the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* These sites do not currently meet the standard for a healthy plant community because of the predominance of cheatgrass.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Aquatic habitat along the West Douglas and main Douglas Creeks are confined to the channel incise. Perennial reaches of the West Douglas and mainstem Douglas channels are known only to support small numbers of speckled dace, an abundant and widely distributed nongame species. Beaver have intermittently colonized Douglas Creek, as well as a small portion of West Douglas Creek near Sand Draw. These beaver ponds and their lengthy backwaters are exploited by small, but well distributed breeding populations of mallard, green-winged teal, and spotted sandpiper.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With the exception of AS-03-01 (see discussion in Wetlands and Riparian Zones), there would be minimal negative impacts at the proposed sites along the West Douglas and mainstem Douglas channels as all work is scheduled to take place outside the channel incise. Without due attention, the right-of-way along site AS-03-01 may pose a potential problem to the West Douglas floodplain due to headcuts that have developed along a parallel right-of-way at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: To decrease any negative impacts at site AS-03-01, the right-of-way width east of the pipeline should be reduced so it will not extend east of the centerline of the power line. This would avoid involving headcuts that have developed along a parallel pipeline right-of-way.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The Douglas Creek complex is generally meeting the standard for animal communities and the system continues to improve (i.e., channel aggradation and wetland/riparian obligate expression). As mitigated, this project would have no negative impacts on aquatic wildlife or their habitats. Subsequently the project would have no effect on continued achievement of the public land health standard for aquatic wildlife or their habitats.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The majority of the habitat along the pipeline corridor constitutes general winter range for deer and elk. The sites which lie along the White River corridor (CIS-02-15 through 31, CIS-03-35 through 44, CIS-03-46 through 48, and AS-02-32 through 35) are

located within severe winter range for both deer and elk. Winter ranges are generally occupied by big game from mid-October through mid-April.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There would be little if any impact on deer and elk habitat along the pipeline corridor. Pipeline replacement/recoating is expected to occur during the summer and fall months thereby having no negative impacts on winter use by deer and elk. Although maintenance activity would remove shrub growth as a potential source of big game winter forage, these sites would be small (average 0.25 acre) and widely separated along the 35 mile pipeline corridor. Although reestablishment of shrub growth may require a decade or more, total involvement would be less than 8 acres—wholly discountable in the context of the remaining woody forage base on these winter ranges.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Emergency maintenance stemming from the lack of scheduled replacement/upkeep and pipeline failure may result in more lengthy, hurriedly planned, and larger scale repairs at inopportune times (e.g., winter/early spring), which may create greater disturbance than that associated with the proposed action.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): Upland habitats encompassing the project area generally meet the land health standards for animal communities. The proposed action would have no measurable long-term influence on the condition or utility of terrestrial wildlife or their habitats. Subsequently, the proposed action as mitigated, would not detract from the indicators comprising the land health standard for animal communities.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation		X	
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals	X		
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology		X	
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations		X	
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources		X	

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Wild Horses	X		

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

In addition, much of the proposed work will occur adjacent to the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway (DDNSD) and within Canyon Pintado National Historic District (CPNHD). Both of these resources are utilized by many visitors throughout the year.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The sight and sound of heavy equipment may detract from the experience of those driving for pleasure along the DDNSD or those visiting interpretive sites within CPNHD.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No impact on desired recreation experiences of hunting recreationists, those traveling the Dinosaur Diamond National Scenic Byway and those publics visiting Canyon Pintado National Historic District.

Mitigation: None.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: This action is consistent with the scope of impacts addressed in the White River ROD/RMP. The cumulative impacts of oil and gas activities are addressed in the White River ROD/RMP for each resource value that would be affected by the proposed action.

REFERENCES CITED:

Fetterman, Jerry
2004 Cultural Resource Investigations of 68 Proposed Recoating and Reconditioning Sites for Williams Gas Pipelines West in Rio Blanco County, Northwestern Colorado. Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Yellow Jacket, Colorado.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Bob Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Lisa Belmonte	Biological Technician	Migratory Birds
Lisa Belmonte	Biological Technician	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Lisa Belmonte	Biological Technician	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Bob Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Lisa Belmonte	Biological Technician	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Bob Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Bob Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Chris Ham	ORP	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2004-091-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the proposed action with the mitigation measures listed below.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

Williams Piceance Basin Lateral: all segments **except cis-02-32 through cis-02-35:**
1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items,

sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

Piceance Basin Lateral stations cis-02-32 through cis-02-35:

3. all excavations on this portion of the pipeline must be monitored by an approved archaeologist.

4. The features identified on the site shall be marked off with hazard fencing and all personnel and construction equipment must avoid the fenced areas at all times during construction and maintenance.

5. All work that involves stockpiling of soils, parking of vehicles etc. shall be kept outside of the site boundaries.

Williams Ignacio-Sumas mainline:

6. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
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For all proposed repair segments:

8. From the White River ROD/RMP, Appendix B. 180. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

9. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

10. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

11. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

12. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

13. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Area Manager.

14. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

15. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. Use Standard Seed Mix 1 identified below.

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
1	Siberian wheatgrass (P27) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Hycrest) Alternates: Fourwing saltbush, Nutall saltbush, Winterfat, Annual Sunflower, Western wheatgrass	3 2 3	Alkaline Uplands, Badlands, Clayey 7"-9", Clayey Salt Desert, Cold Desert Breaks, Cold Desert Overflow, Gravelly 7"-9", Limey Cold Desert, Loamy 7"-9", Loamy Cold Desert, Loamy Salt Desert, Saline Lowland, Salt Desert Breaks, Salt Flats, Salt Meadow Sands 7"-9", Sandy 7"-9", Sandy Cold Desert, Sandy Salt Desert, Shale 7"-9", Shale/Sands Complex, Shallow Loamy, Shallow Sandy, Shallow Slopes, Silty Salt Desert, Silty Swale, Steep

16. Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM

17. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

18. Through the use of BMPs, keep sediment from leaving the proposed site.

19. To decrease any negative impacts at site AS-03-01, the right-of-way width east of the pipeline should be reduced so it will not extend east of the centerline of the power line. This would avoid involving headcuts that have developed along a parallel pipeline right-of-way.

20. When Erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING: Compliance will be conducted by the realty staff every five years.

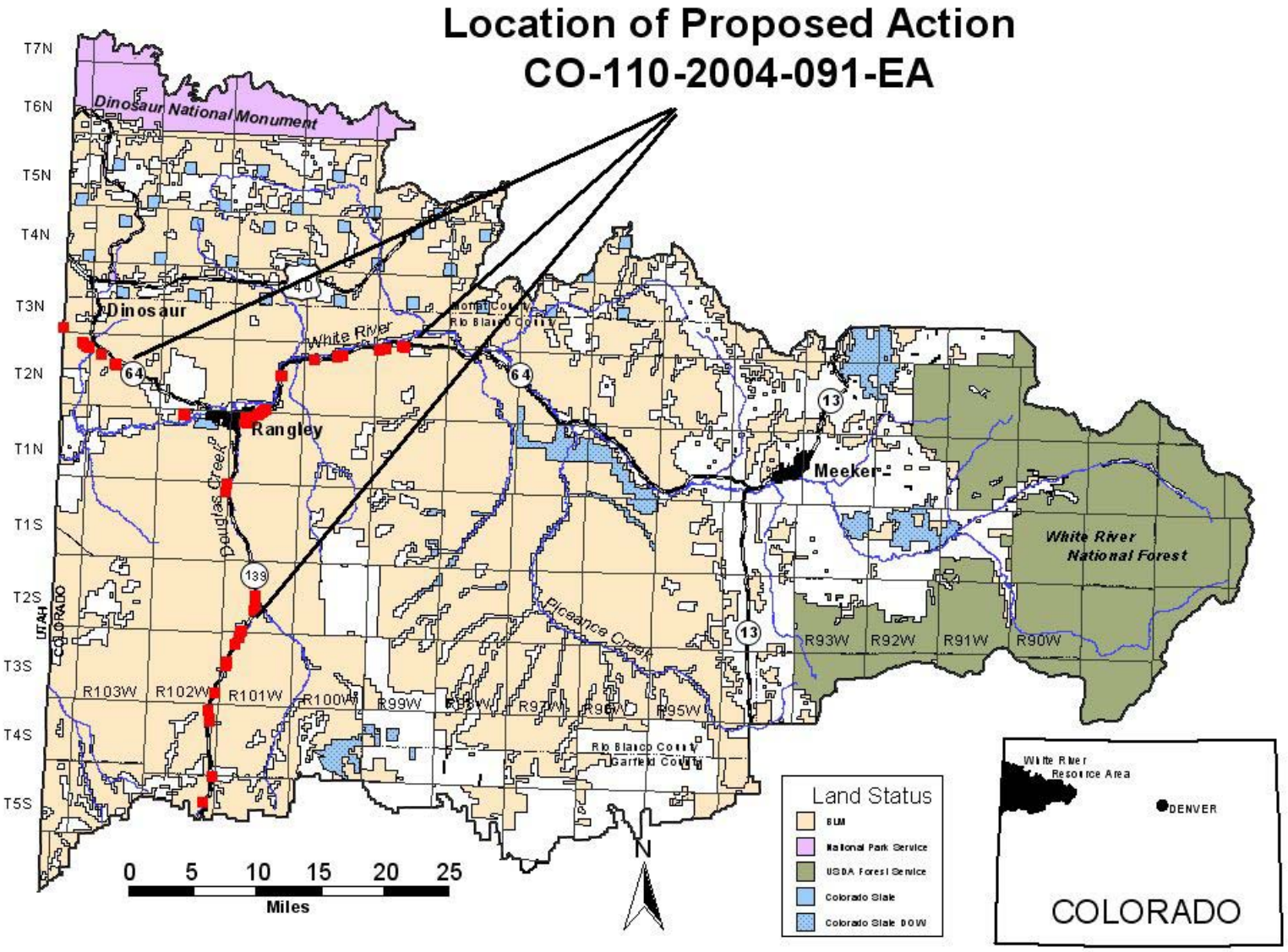
NAME OF PREPARER: Penny Brown

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline P. Hallowed 6/21/04

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: Kent E. Walter
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 06/21/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the Location of the Proposed Action.


Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2004-091-EA
T7N
T6N
T5N
T4N
T3N
T2N
T1N
T1S
T2S
T3S
T4S
T5S
Dinosaur National Monument
Dinosaur
White River
Rangley
Douglas Creek
Meeker
White River National Forest
Piceance Creek
Rio Blanco County
Garfield County
UTAH
COLORADO
R103W
R102W
R101W
R100W
R99W
R93W
R92W
R91W
R90W
64
13
139
0 5 10 15 20 25
Miles
N
Land Status
BLM
National Park Service
USDA Forest Service
Colorado State
Colorado State DOW
White River Resource Area
DENVER
COLORADO